

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 01160 301341Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /097 W

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R 301230Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3998

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYFE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENGR, MZ

SUBJECT: CAHORA BASSA OPERATION POSTPONED

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES A-106

1. ACCORDING TO NOTICIAS OF BEIRA, OPERATIONS OF THE FIRST PHASE STRUCTURES OF THE CAHORA BASSA HYDROPOWER SCHEME, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1975, WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL MID-1976. THESE FIRST PHASE STRUCTURES, CONSISTING OF THREE MAIN GENERATORS AND FOUR TRANSFORMERS AT THE CAHORA BASSA SUBSTATION, WERE TO HAVE ACHIEVED AN OUTPUT OF 960,000KW/H. DUE TO AN ACCIDENT IN THE NORTH FUNNEL OF THE DAM, GENERATOR NO. 3 WILL

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PAGE 02 LOUREN 01160 301341Z

NOT BE IN OPERATION UNTIL END OF 1976; CONSEQUENTLY, TOTAL

FIRST PHASE OPERATIONAL OUTPUT WILL BE REDUCED TO ABOUT 800,000 KW/H. SOME TECHNICAL FLAWS IN THE TRANSMISSION NETWORK ARE ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELAY, AND CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES IN THE TRANSMISSION LINES ARE BEING REMEDIED.

2. A TRANSMISSION LINE IS BEING CONSTRUCTED FROM THE SONGO STATION TO THE HYDROPOWER SYSTEM OF SHER IN VILA PERE. WHEN COMPLETED CAHORA BASSA POWER WILL BE SWITCHED TO THE SHER SYSTEM, GIVING BEIRA AND THE CENTRAL AREA ABUNDANT INEXPENSIVE POWER.

3. NEW SCHEDULE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE COMPLEX IS AS FOLLOWS: (A) PHASE ONE, WITH THREE GENERATORS AND FOUR TRANSFORMERS, IS TO BE READY IN MID-1976; (B) PHASE TWO IS TO HAVE ONE ADDITIONAL GENERATOR AND TWO ADDITIONAL TRANSFORMERS OPERATIONAL BY EARLY 1977; (C) PHASE THREE IS TO BRING ON ANOTHER GENERATOR AND TWO MORE TRANSFORMERS BY END 1979 OR EARLY 1980.

4. COMMENT: TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, WHILE OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT, ARE ONLY PART OF THE PROBLEM. BUREAUCRATIC AND IDEOLOGICAL OBSTACLES ALSO STAND IN THE WAY OF MEETING PRODUCTION DEADLINES. SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO RECENTLY REPORTED COMPLAINTS BY A SOUTH AFRICAN TECHNICIAN ABOUT VISA DIFFICULTIES AND OTHER ASSORTED GPRM RED TAPE. LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES COMPLAIN ABOUT PAY, WORKING, AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF MOZAMBICAN EMPLOYEES AT CAHORA BASSA, CLAIMING DISCRIMINATION AND EXPLOITATION BY FOREIGN EMPLOYERS. ARTICLES ALLEGE THAT LOCAL WORKERS ARE HUMILIATED BY ENGINEERS AND OTHER TECHNICIANS WHO IGNORE THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND CHARGE THAT FOREIGNERS WHO ARE PAID THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD AND WHO CAN RESCIND THEIR OWN CONTRACTS AT ANY TIME THREATEN TO IMPEDE OR STOP CONSTRUCTION OF THE DAM".
ARENALES

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Message Attributes

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